

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 6, 2007 has been fully considered by the Applicant. The telephone conference interview with Examiner Wilson on May 24, 2007 to discuss the key structural differences between the claimed invention and the disclosures of the cited references is gratefully acknowledged. Specifically, but without limitation, the Examiner and Applicant's attorneys discussed the undercut areas on the sides of the receptacle as a distinguishing characteristic of the claimed invention as compared to Laszlo. Applicants have amended independent Claims 6 and 9, amended dependent Claims 10 and 11 and added dependent Claims 12-18 in order to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. In addition, Applicant herewith submits better quality copies of the drawings and has amended the Abstract to ensure it reflects the claimed invention. For the reasons stated below, Applicants now believe the application to be in condition for allowance.

The rejection of dependent Claims 10 and 11, as now amended, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Claims 10 and 11 provide an additional limitation of Claims 6 and 9, respectively, of the denture tooth and denture tooth housing composed of a "synthetic resin, *i.e.*, acrylic resin, composite resin or some combination of acrylic and composite resins." (Page 1, lines 14-16).

The rejection of independent Claim 6, as now amended, under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Laszlo (IL 83447 A) is respectfully traversed. The Examiner cited an abstract of the Laszlo Israeli patent. Applicant has obtained a full English language version of the patent, which is submitted herewith. Laszlo provides a mandibular denture having a plurality of posterior teeth which have hollowed-out cusps which are to be filled with a resin for casting. In contrast, the claimed invention

is directed to a denture tooth having sides with a receptacle located centrally between the sides. The receptacle of the claimed invention is provided with at least one undercut area 132 so that when the resin is placed in the receptacle, the resin will fill the undercut area and, upon hardening, the resin will be more securely retained in the receptacle of the special denture tooth. In addition, the claimed invention may include a removable occlusal insert 114 that provides a groove in which the upper lingual cusps of the upper posterior teeth rest when the partially completed dentures are in central relation position. The removable inserts will be removed from the denture tooth's receptacle prior to the receptacle being filled with the resin. (Page 41, line 3 through Page 42, line 11).

As now amended, independent Claims 6 and 9 clearly convey that the claimed invention comprises a denture tooth housing inserted into a removable dental prosthesis, wherein the denture tooth has a receptacle with at least one undercut area to help retain the resin upon hardening, in contrast to the Laszlo invention. The claimed invention may also include removable inserts in the receptacle of the denture tooth.

The rejection of Claim 9, as now amended, under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Laszlo in view of Opotow (U.S. Patent No. 2,309,270) is respectfully traversed. As set forth above, the Laszlo reference is clearly distinguishable from the claimed invention. Additionally, Claim 9 provides a removable dental prosthesis comprising a special tooth housing having a receptacle with an undercut area to retain a resin material and a central bearing device removably attached using an adhesive material to the tooth housing. The central bearing device maintains a proper relative vertical spacing relationship between a maxillary and an opposing mandibular of the dental prosthesis through all eccentric movements. The central bearing device also allows the contour of the occlusal surface of the denture tooth to conform to and be molded by the interaction with the